

The dream of a gallery at the old "Back's" butcher shop in Cooks Hill, Newcastle was reignited in 1988 and a gallery committee was elected. It was unanimously decided that the outside of the building would retain its original style where possible using traditional materials.

The first fundraiser was an auction of donated works from many well-known potters as well as work from the members and was held at the Newcastle Regional Museum. The second was the Great Platter Auction with platters being supplied by a local potter, Sean Nicholson, and decorated free of charge by local artists (see Ceramic Art and Perception 1991, Issue No 6, pages 54-55). This was held at The View Factory and was followed by another platter auction two years later back at the museum.

The big dream of a first-class ceramic gallery became a reality on 1st March 1992 with the opening of the Back to Back Galleries with an exhibition gallery and a members' gallery. Janet Mansfield, Jenny Orchard and Patsy Healy were our inaugural exhibitors and the gallery was opened by the local State Member of Parliament, Bryce Gaudry.

In addition to the fundraising events mentioned above NSP has organised a number of ceramic events including two day conferences, 'Clay and Cabernet I and II'. The group has gone through many changes over the years and many hard-working people have been involved in its growth. Present members, who number just over sixty, are greatly indebted to our founding members. They not only had the foresight to acquire the premises, but also risked their own assets in securing the loans necessary to make the acquisition possible. There is a strong collective feeling that we are still achieving their long held objective of promoting ceramics of high aesthetic and technical excellence to many sections of the wider community.

Newcastle Studio Potters continues to support the creative endeavours of many ceramic artists from the beginner to the professional and it is very proud to have been instrumental in the achievements of several distinguished members who have established themselves nationally.

The 20th Anniversary in 2012 NSP Inc. celebrated with an exhibition titled "Tiles Tell Tales" featuring a wide selection of decorated tiles created by members past and present.

Newcastle Studio Potters Inc
57 Bull St
Cooks Hill 2300

Open Fri Sat Sun 11-5
Tel: 49293677
www.newcastlepotters.org.au

Contact b2bgalleries@gmail.com



Newcastle Studio Potters Inc is a not for profit incorporated association supporting ceramic artists. Its gallery Back to Back Galleries while presenting exhibitions in various media, focuses on traditional and contemporary ceramics.